

Call for Papers: Southern Regional ACIS 2016

“Pre-Revolutionary Ireland”

April 14-16, 2016

Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia

Keynote Speaker: Roy Foster

Revolutionary change—political, social, or cultural—becomes apparent at junctures such as Easter week of 1916 or May 22, 2015, when Ireland became the first country to legalize gay marriage as the result of a popular referendum. Such watershed events don't come out of nowhere, however. They are preceded by years or decades of preparation involving diverse energies that only eventually focus on one specific aim (which, in hindsight, can come to seem inevitable). This conference will examine the various potential futures co-existing in pre-revolutionary times and seek to recover the sense of possibility that animates people during them.

Presenters might focus on topics that include, for example: the periods preceding any of Ireland's armed rebellions, successful or otherwise; aesthetic or cultural movements contributing to revolutionary artistic achievements; Northern Ireland before the outbreak of the contemporary Troubles—or during the years immediately prior to the Good Friday Agreement; pre-Christian or pre-colonial Ireland; present Ireland (what “pre-revolutionary” period will we recognize ourselves, belatedly, to be living in now?). While preference will be given to proposals related to the conference theme, we will consider proposals on any aspect of Irish Studies.

We welcome both individual and panel submissions (3-4 participants), as well as proposals for roundtable discussions, live performances, or dramatic readings. Interdisciplinary papers and panels are especially encouraged. Individual proposals should be no more than 250 words in length and include a sentence or two about the presenter. Panel proposals should be limited to 750 words and include a rationale for the panel as well as a brief description of each paper and a short bio of each participant. Proposals of up to 500 words for other sorts of presentations should also include bios of everyone involved and a justification of the format. Send all proposals to Marilyn Richter at mrichter@gsu.edu by **December 15, 2015**. Presenters must be members of the American Conference for Irish Studies.

Participants can easily access the conference venue and hotel in downtown Atlanta by public transportation and from these can walk to many of the city's most popular tourist attractions, including the new Center for Civil and Human Rights, the Georgia Aquarium, CNN Studios, the College Football Hall of Fame, Centennial Olympic Park, and the World of Coca-Cola. Other Atlanta highlights, such as the High Museum of Art and the Alliance Theatre, are a short subway ride away—so bring the family or a friend, show up early or stay late, and enjoy a little Southern hospitality!

About the Plenary Speakers: Carroll Professor of Irish History at Oxford University and author of *Vivid Faces: The Revolutionary Generation in Ireland, 1890-1923* (Oxford, 2014), keynote speaker Roy Foster requires no introduction to members of the Irish Studies community. He has written too many books to list here (although they include *Modern Ireland 1600-1972*; biographies of Charles Stewart Parnell, Lord Randolph Churchill, and W. B. Yeats; and volumes on Irish story-telling, the Celtic Tiger phenomenon, and connections in Irish and English history) and is currently working on a history of Irish literature. Our second plenary speaker will be Roisín Higgins, author of *Transforming 1916: Meaning, Memory and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Easter Rising* (Cork, 2012) and the historical advisor for the Commemoration Zone of the permanent exhibit in the General Post Office in Dublin.